EXTRACTS

FROM

GENERAL ORDERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

FROM 1837 TO 1855,

IN REFERENCE TO THE SERVICES OF

CAPTAIN T. W. JONES,

OF THE

Provincial Cavalry, C. E., and the Troops under his Command.

MONTREAL:
OWLER & STEVENSON, PRINTERS, 17 HOSPITAL STREET.

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avocat

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[PRIVATE.]

A scurrilous and malicious article having lately appeared in a local paper, attacking the private and professional character of Dr. Jones, and his conduct while in command of the Provincial Cavalry of Canada East,—he has been advised by his friends, in justification of his military honor, to publish the following extracts from General Orders and letters, from 1838 to 1855. The article in question states that the writer, and those who think with him, "recognised in the suppression of the force, a less than merited punishment for a TREACHEROUS DERELICTION OF DUTY WITHOUT PARALLEL." A perusal of the documents subjoined will shew how utterly false and unfounded is such a statement. As regards the standing of Dr. Jones in his profession, and the insinuations in reference to his private character—he can afford to treat these with the contempt they deserve.

MONTREAL, June 14th, 1858.

A singular attempt has been lately made by Judge Aylwin to compel the Coroner to provide for his namesake, the "Inevitable," and to quarter on the public purse this ornament of the sunny side of Great St. James Street.

The Judge required of the Coroner that upon all Inquests the medical evidence should be given by one and the same competent individual; and that the individual so to have the monopoly of evidence should be Dr. Walter Jones.

The Coroner demurred, and referred the matter to the Government, in whose hands it yet rests.

Whatever the motives of the Judge may have been, whether to obviate the difficulties which occasionally arise in murder cases, from the loose way in which country practitioners conduct *post mortem* examinations, or whether he had no higher one than to provide for a boon companion, he ought to have known that his interference privately in any matter affecting the administration of justice was indecent and unwarrantable. Upon the Bench he had the right to call the attention of the Crown Prosecutor to any defect existing, or off it, to invite the action of the Executive Government in the same direction; but the Coroner is, in his jurisdiction an independent officer, responsible for his acts to

the Crown only, and subject to the direction of the Attorney General alone, under the law which regulates his office.

The proposition to give Dr. Jones the monopoly of medical evidence, is simply one to create a lucrative office for him. In the nature of things he would not be the best evidence on matters not within his cognizance, and as a professional man, his reputation at the Bar is greater than at the bed-side.

In an enquiry touching the death of the subject of a Coroner's inquest, the Physician who attended the deceased in life, where death resulted from disease or other causes not instantly fatal, or who was first called after death, in others would be, of course, the best and most satisfactory witness; nor could his evidence be dispensed with, although the extraordinary measure were adopted of appointing a permanent Crown witness. Dr. Jones would be provided for, at a considerable additional and unnecessary expense, but without any public advantage.

Such an appointment would be an insult and a wrong to the whole medical profession of the district, inasmuch as it would be a declaration of their unfitness to act as witnesses of events within their knowledge. Nor would the constant appearance of the Crown Witness be calculated to favorably impress Juries.

We presume there is no question that the suggestion arose with Dr. Jones himself, who has a remarkable aptitude for this sort of business, and either by means of an uncommonly keen scent for a carcase, or by intuition, generally manages to be forthcoming at all inquests or legal enquiries where medical evidence is wanting, and fat fees are to be had. Being unsuccessful in his application for appointment as Medical Coroner, he is willing to accept the next best thing, Medical evidence.

What his particular claims are for public employment we are not aware:—whether he relies upon his beauty or his learning, his private labors, or his public services; but this we know that were not the appointment which he now seeks utterly objectionable and indefensible, we should be compelled to raise our voice against the commission to his hands of any employment from which might be implied public approval of the conduct which restored him to the practice of his profession.

Those who censured most severely the conduct of Lord Elgin, in the passage of the Rebellion Losses Bill, cannot approve that of his mounted escort; and they recognise in the suppression of the force a less than merited punishment for a treacherous dereliction of duty without a parallel.

These Extracts from General Orders and Correspondence are published with the view of shewing the estimation in which the services of the Provincial Cavalry were held, from the time of their being embodied in 1837, until they were, on ECONOMICAL grounds, disbanded by the Imperial Government in 1850. To the Officers and men who served in the three Troops they will be not an uninteresting record, and are respectfully dedicated by

T. W. JONES, CAPT. Q. L. D.,
Commanding Prov. Cavalry, C. E.

Montreal, June 14, 1858.

EXTRACTS.

Extract from Letter to Lt.-Col. Holmes, Commanding 3rd Volunteer Brigade.

MONTREAL, 26th April, 1838.

SIR,—I am directed by the Commander of the Forces to transmit to you an extract of a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 30th January, 1838, and to request that Her Majesty's ***thanks*** may be conveyed to Captain T. W. Jones, the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the ***Queen's Light Dragoons,*** which forms part of the Third Volunteer Brigade under your command.

[Signed,] T. J. GRIFFIN,
Lieut. 32nd Regt., Assist. Prov. Military Secy.

To Lieut.-Col. HOLMES,
Mon. Light Infantry, Com. 3rd Brigade.

To Capt. T. W. JONES, Com. Queen's Lt. Dragoons.

SIR,—I have much satisfaction in being the medium through which so very flattering a testimonial is conveyed to *yourself* and the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the Queen's Light Dragoons, as that which I have now the honor of sending you a copy, and I have no doubt but should circumstances again afford an opportunity, you will, by the alacrity with which the duty will be performed, again elicit the same marked approval so handsomely expressed in the Extract accompanying the letter addressed to me as commanding the 3rd Brigade, by order of the Commander of the Forces on the 26th instant.

I have the honor to be,
Dear Sir,
Yours most truly,

BENJ. HOLMES,
Lt. Col. Com. 3rd Brigade.

Extract of District Order.

PHILIPSBURGH, October 5, 1841.

Lt. Col. Reid has been directed by Major General Sir James McDonald, K.C.B.,K.C.H., &c., commanding the troops in the lower part of the Province of Canada, to convey to Capt. T. W. Jones, commanding the Queen's Light Dragoons, the expression of his approbation of the appearance and movements of the Troop under his command, at the inspection which took place in his presence yesterday, and Lt. Col. Reid begs to assure the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the District under his command, that it affords him peculiar gratification to have received this expression of approbation from one of *the most distinguished Officers* in Her Majesty's service, and which he trusts the Troops will continue to merit.

PHILIPSBURGH, 9th April, 1842.

Similar District order from Major General Sir James Arch. Hope,K.C.B.

District Order, Extract.

PHILIPSBURGH, 29th April, 1843.

Lt. Col. Reid cannot take leave of the Missisquoi and Rouville District without returning his best thanks to the Troops for their regularity and general good conduct during the period they have been under his command. To Captain Jones, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the Troop of Queen's Light Dragoons who have been under his orders since 1839, when he first assumed the command of this District, Lt. Col. Reid feels that his thanks are more particularly due, for their zeal and attention, and from their ready and willing execution of all orders. Their discipline has already called forth *approbation* from two of the *most distinguished Officers* in Her Majesty's service, viz.: Lt. General Sir James McDonald and Major General Sir James A. Hope. It would therefore be presumption in him to add one single word to such high authority. Their orderly, sober, and soldierlike conduct, in quarters and on duty at outpost, reflect the greatest credit on the men of the Troop, and peculiarly qualify them for situations of responsibility; and the constant state of efficiency of the Troop does the *greatest* credit to Capt. Jones' arrangements.

[Signed,] H. REID,
Lt. Col. Commanding.

Extract from General Orders, dated Montreal, 6th Nov., 1844.

"The Commander of the Forces will take the earliest opportunity of bringing the Governor General's approbation of THEIR CONDUCT under the notice of ***His Grace the Duke of Wellington,*** and although the conduct of the ***Provincial Cavalry*** is comprehended in the spirit and terms of this letter and order, the Commander of the Forces cannot omit this opportunity of expressing his high opinion of it, on former occasions, and indeed ***throughout their whole course of service.***

[Signed,] G. A. WETHERALL.
Col. D. A. G.

Extract from Letter dated Horse Guards, 3rd December, 1844, published in General Orders, dated Montreal, 27th Dec., 1854.

"No. 3. The Duke of Wellington has considered it his duty to lay your letter and its enclosure before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and he has availed himself of the opportunity to draw Lord Stanley's attention to your report of ***the efficiency and uniform good conduct*** of the three Troops of Provincial Cavalry.

[Signed,] FITZROY SOMERSET.

To Lieut. General
SIR RICHARD JACKSON, K. C. B., &c.
Commandant of Forces.

Extract.

MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
SOREL, 3rd September, 1847.

"With His Excellency's sanction, therefore, the Commander of the Forces proposes to renew their present engagement for a further period of two years, namely from the 1st May, 1848, to the 30th April, 1850: and he ***strongly*** and ***earnestly*** recommends the ***continued*** services of ***these Troops,*** especially of the Cavalry, fully concurring in all that has been urged by ***his predecessors*** as to their great ***value*** and ***importance,*** and rendered now more ***necessary*** than before, by the recent reduction of the Regular Forces in Canada.

[Signed,] J. A. VESEY KIRKLAND,
M. Secretary.

The Civil Secretary, &c., &c.

No. 8 Memorandum.—Extract.

SOREL, 23rd February

"I have had under my consideration the application of Captain

Jones, commanding the Troop of Queen's Dragoons, upon the subject of Mr. ———'s entrance in that corps."

"The exemplary *care* and *ability* with which Captain Jones commands the Troop, as evinced by the *admirable order* and *efficiency* in which I *lately saw it, justly demands* the utmost attention to any *wish of his* connected with *it*, and the character and pretentions of Mr.—— would seem strong in support of the application

[Signed,] D'URBAN,
Lt. Gen. Commanding Forces
" A. PRITCHARD,
Asst. Adjutant General.

D. Q. MASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
10th January, 1848,—4 o'clock.

"DEAR JONES,

I have just got your dispatch announcing your arrival at Longueuil. I am directed to request you will cross the river as soon as you can find a practicable crossing, which we are informed will, in all probability, be afforded to-morrow, and proceed to the Cavalry Barracks. The crossing at Caughnawaga has been impracticable since yesterday morning. I am sorry your men have suffered so much from the frost.

Yours, very truly,
CHAS. READY,
Capt. Asst. Qr.-Mr.-General.

Extract of General Order.

HEAD QUARTERS, SOREL, 17th January, 1848.

"The Commander of the Forces has been exceedingly gratified by a Report with its enclosures from Major General the Honorable Charles Gore, C. B., commanding Eastern District, of his proceedings for preserving the peace of the town of Montreal during the election on the 11th instant, and of the excellent conduct of the troops under his orders, &c., &c. "The duty of the day, owing to the intense cold, was trying in the extreme, and the troops performed it with utmost patience, forbearance and good will.

"The Two Troops of Provincial Cavalry, under the command of Captains Jones and Ermatinger, having made, in perfect order, several painful marches, exposed to most inclement weather, crossing the St. Lawrence on the ice on the morning of the 11th instant, effecting a *very*

perilous passage with a perseverance and resolution which do them great honor, and were in readiness at the appointed station on the morning of the 11th instant.

[Signed,] G. A. WETHERALL,
Col., D. A. G.

General Order, Extract.

HEAD QUARTERS, SOREL, 21st February, 1848.

The Commander of the Forces has, with the sanction of His Excellency the Governor General, been pleased to direct that the undermentioned Provincial corps, now serving in Canada, and whose period of service will expire on the 30th of April next, be continued embodied on a further engagement for two years, terminating at the option of the Government at the end of twelve months, namely the 30th April, 1849, or at any intermediate period of the second year.

Royal Montreal Cavalry, 2 troops
Queen's Light Dragoons, 1 troop.
The Colonial Company.

G. A. WETHERALL,
Col. Asst. A. G.

Downing Street, Military, Confidential.

MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
SOREL, 30th December, 1848.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 27th instant, enclosing the copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, relating to the proposed disbandment of the Provincial Cavalry, and conveying the wishes of His Excellency the Governor General to be informed of the views of the Commander of the Forces upon the subject.

I have laid these letters before the Commander of the Forces, and I am directed in reply to request that you may be so good as to offer the following observations thereon for His Excellency's consideration.

There seems but too much reason to fear from the contents of Earl Grey's Despatch that Her Majesty's Government will cease to authorize the maintenance of the Provincial Cavalry as a charge upon the British treasury after the 30th April, 1850; yet, if the importance of its services to the interest of Her Majesty's army, as well as to the security of the Colony, be duly considered, there would perhaps appear sufficient grounds for the strong objection to that course, which the Governor Gen-

eral is *permitted* (if not invited) to urge, should His Excellency see fit to do so.

The Provincial Cavalry were raised in 1837, when the first insurrection broke out in this Province, together with a large body of Provincial Troops, Embodied Militia, &c., &c., who were called out upon the spur of the moment, in consequence of the very inadequate Regular Force then serving in Canada.

After tranquility had been restored, the other Provincial Troops, Cavalry, Infantry and artillery, were one after another paid off, and disbanded at the termination of their several engagements, but the three Troops of Cavalry now existing in Lower Canada had become so efficient, and so useful in the performance of their duties, by maintaining a strict surveillance along the Southern Frontier Line of the Richelieu Peninsula; by aiding the Civil Powers in the apprehension of suspicious persons coming in from the United States; and especially by arresting deserters from the Regular Forces, and so essentially checking the prevalence of desertion, that Sir Richard Jackson, through the Governor General, earnestly solicited the authority of Her Majesty's Government to continue them embodied,—a measure which still became more necessary after the 30th April, 1844, when the King's Dragoon Guards and 7th Hussars, two regiments of Regular Cavalry, were recalled to England. And thus they have still continued, successive Commanders of the Forces warmly concurring in their great utility.

At this present time they consist of 3 Captains, 3 Subalterns, 7 Sergeants, 7 Corporals, 3 Buglers, and 120 Privates, and are in excellent order, *equal, perhaps, to the same number of any Cavalry in the world*, and are spread along the southern frontier line from Phillipsburgh on the east, to Huntington on the west.

They are now the only Cavalry in Canada, and are, indeed, *more valuable* than any regular Cavalry for duties which they have to perform, because, while *as a body of troops they are equally efficient, they are individually far superior*, being all the sons of farmers of the country in which they serve, and with every feature of which they are well acquainted; never *deserting* themselves and most effectually preventing the desertion of others. An estimate of their great utility in this respect may be gathered from the fact that about the middle of the present year, out of eight desertions which took place in one month, seven of the parties were secured and brought in by the Provincial Cavalry. Hence the soldiers in Central Canada now look upon any attempt to desert over the southern border as a hopeless case. Whereas

but for the interposition of this Cavalry the facility of desertion to troops in Montreal and the Richelieu Peninsula would be so great that there can be no doubt of its rapid increase, the southern border being so near, and the temptation in the United States being always in activity. It would be needless to dwell upon the advantage derived to the service of the army from such a check upon desertion which is unhappily so frequent in North America.

There is yet another good and cogent reason for continuing these Troops of Cavalry embodied, which is that each of them would in case of emergency become the nucleus upon which to form and organize a larger body, and so popular is this service in them that volunteers might always be had in any numbers, and the three Troops might become three Regiments in a very short time. Meanwhile they are a *trusty body* upon which, *together* or *individually, implicit confidence* may be placed in all circumstances. In proof of which, if *any* were *necessary*, may be adduced the fact; that in the month of January last the Troops of Captains Jones and Ermatinger, whose services there were reason to believe would be required at Montreal, "made in very perfect order several painful marches in the most inclement weather, crossed the St. Lawrence on the ice, effecting a very perilous passage with a perseverance and resolution which did them great honor, and were in timely readiness at their appointed stations." To which it may be added that several (about 40) were severely frost bitten on this duty. Taking it for granted that it must be the intention of Her Majesty's Government to afford due military protection to the Colony, and especially where it involves no increase to the Regular Forces actually serving in it, and when, moreover, it can be combined, as in this instance, with undoubted advantage to the interest of those forces, it is hoped that the above observations may hold forth sufficient grounds to warrant His Excellency the Governor General, in submitting to the Secretary of State a strong objection to the course of discontinuing the maintenance of the three troops of Provincial Cavalry, in Lower Canada

The Commander of the Forces throws himself upon the indulgence of His Excellency, the Governor General, for the *length and earnestness* with which he has discussed the subject under consideration, arising from the *deep interest* which he feels in it as one of *essential consequence*, alike to the interest of the Colony and of Her Majesty's service.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

J. A. VESEY KIRKLAND, M. S.

Colonel the Hon. R. Bruce, }
Military Secretary. }

Memorandum, No. 89.

DEPT. ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
MONTREAL, 17th January, 1849.

The accompanying ten copies of Lieut. Colonel Babcock's excellent instructions on "Out posts, Patroles, &c.," for Cavalry, are presented to Captain T. W. Jones, commanding Queen's Light Dragoons Provincial Cavalry, for the use of the officers and non-commissioned officers of the Troop, by Gen. Sir Benjamin D'Urban, commander of the Forces, with his Excellency's best wishes.

G. A. WETHERALL,
Col. Asst. A. Gen.

Memorandum.

Sir Benjamin D'Urban wishes Captain Jones to get these three books; the two in crimson to consult and keep for some time, the other to keep altogether.

JAMES E. ALEXANDER,
May 19th, 1849. *Kt. Aid-de-Camp.*

The commander of the Forces, Sir Benjamin D'Urban, requests Captain Jones', Queen's Light Dragoons, acceptance of this work, by the late Colonel Gurwood.

J. E. ALEXANDER,
Montreal, May 19th, 1849. *Aid-de-Camp.*

MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE.
MONTREAL, Jan. 30th, 1849.

SIR,

"The Lieutenant General commanding has directed me to acquaint you that he has learned *with regret*, that Her Majesty's Government cannot consent to apply to Parliament to make provision for the Provincial corps serving in Canada, beyond the 30th April, 1850.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
GEO. TALBOT, *M. S.*

To Captain T. W. JONES,
Comm'g Provincial Cavalry.

Extract.

HEAD QUARTERS,
MONTREAL, 18th March, 1850.

SIR,

In transmitting for the most favorable consideration of Her Majesty's Government, the accompanying memorial from the offi-

cers of the three Troops of Provincial Cavalry about to be disbanded, I cannot too *strongly express my opinion* of their uniform *good conduct, soldier-like bearing,* and *perfect efficiency* during the period of nearly thirteen years that they have been embodied and actively employed.

In conveying this my opinion of these troops, I am only repeating that of the *distinguished officers* who have *preceded* me in this *command,* whose *recorded testimony* does these Troops the *highest honor.*

Their services at all times *important,* have on several trying occasions been most *useful* in support of authority and the public peace, and in the performance of which, their marches in the most rigorous winters have been *remarkable* for their *length,* and the *sufferings* endured by both *men* and *officers.* In unsettled times their vigilance gave *security* to the Frontier settlements, and by the prevention of desertion has been productive of much benefit to the Queen's service.

On several occasions these officers have been subjected to very *serious extra expense,* for which they have received *no* remuneration, &c.

I have the honor to be, Sir
Your obedient Servant,

WM. ROWAN,
Lt. Gen. Commanding the Forces.

To the Rt. Hon. Secretary of War, &c.

Extract of General Order.

HEAD QUARTERS, MONTREAL, 21st March, 1850.

No. 1.—" Under instructions received by His Excellency the Governor General, from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, 'the Provincial Cavalry' now serving in Canada, and whose period of service will expire on the 30th April next, will be disembodied on the 15th proximo, or as soon after that date as circumstances will admit, receiving pay in full to the 30th April.

" These troops having performed good and faithful services—the best acknowledgments of the Lt. General Commanding are due to the three troops of Provincial Cavalry which have been more especially *under his own immediate observation.* He begs to thank them for their *exemplary conduct, soldierlike bearing, and perfect efficiency during the long period* of nearly *thirteen years* that they have been embodied and actively employed.

(Signed,) G. A. WETHERALL,
Col. D. A. G.

12th April, 1850

CAPTAIN JONES,

Commanding Queen's Light Dragoons.

SIR,—We, the Clergy, Magistrates, Officers of Militia, and Citizens of Lacolle and Odelltown, have learned, with much regret, that the troops under your command are about to be disbanded.

We cannot permit you to depart without expressing our sense of the regard and high estimation we entertain towards you and the troop under your command. Your urbanity of manners since you came amongst us (now nearly five years) not only as an officer, but the part you have taken as a citizen in largely subscribing to Agricultural purposes in this district and your ever readiness in attending at the bed of sickness when called on, giving your gratuitous advice as Physician and Surgeon, restoring many, with the assistance of the Almighty, to perfect health when almost despaired of by even other physicians; also, your readiness in subscribing to every benevolent and useful purpose—such generosity has not passed our notice, without its due appreciation.

The high state of discipline, appearance, sobriety, and good conduct of the Queen's Light Dragoons, we think could not be surpassed by any Cavalry corps in Her Majesty's service. Such discipline and uniformity of conduct, must, Sir, emanate from the correct knowledge you have of the service, and the care you entertained for the appearance and comfort of the men under your command.

Permit us to request that you will convey to the non-commissioned officers and men of your troop, our best regards and respects, hoping that they will conduct themselves as citizens, with as much propriety of conduct as they have done while soldiers.

Sir, as to yourself and amiable lady, Mrs. Jones, you will please o accept our high esteem and regard, and wherever you may settle, and whatever situation you may be placed in, may you enjoy all the comfort and blessings this world can afford.

Signed on behalf of the Clergy, Magistrates, Officers of Militia and Citizens of LaColle and Odelltown, as passed at a meeting convened for that purpose, and on the 8th April, instant, at Mr. Ennis's Hotel, LaColle Village.

E. MARCH, Chairman.
L. S. MILLER, Secretary.

On Saturday morning, when Captain Jones left the Lacolle wharf for St. Johns, the Lacolle Volunteer Artillery fired a salute from the wharf,

which was responded to from the steamer United States, in the usual manner, the Captain having kindly waited, to permit the inhabitants to give to Captain Jones those honors which his services so greatly merited and which they were anxious to do as a mark of esteem and respect for a brave and good soldier, and a kind and generous friend.

MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
MONTREAL, 17th April, 1855.

MY LORD,—By direction of the Lieutenant General, I have the honor to request that the enclosed letter from Dr. T. W. Jones, M.D., of this city, may be submitted to his Excellency, The Governor General, when the claims of other candidates for appointments in the proposed Militia Force, may be taken into consideration.

I am desired to add that Dr. T. W. Jones commanded as Captain a Troop of Provincial Cavalry called "The Queen's Light Dragoons," which he raised, embodied, and disciplined on the outbreak of the insurrection in Lower Canada in 1837, and continued in the uninterrupted command of for thirteen years, or until 1850, when the Troop was ordered to be disbanded; and during the whole of the period in question Dr. Jones was conspicuous for his activity, intelligence and zeal, and the valuable services rendered by him and the Troop under his command, their soldier-like qualities, conduct and appearance elicited not only the praise and acknowledgements of the Lieutenant General himself, but also that of his predecessors, and of the late lamented Sir George Cathcart, under whose immediate command the three Troops of Provincial Cavalry, formerly embodied in Canada East, were placed for a considerable period.

I have the honor, &c.

(Signed, T. F. GRIFFIN, Capt.; M. S.

The Viscount Bury, Civil Sec'y,
To His Excellency the Governor General.

HALIFAX, April 30, 1855.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 9th inst., and I have written strongly to His Excellency in your favor, and sincerely hope that you will succeed in your application to the Governor General. I have always had so much reason to be satisfied with you during the long period you were under my command,

and your zealous and active services, that I do hope you will succeed in your works.

Believe me with sincere regard,
Faithfully Yours,
CHARLES GORE,
Lieut. General Com'g Troops.

To Capt. T. W. JONES, M.D.,
Late Com'g Provincial Cavalry.